

the chiropractors should be allowed under this licensing change to go beyond the axial skeletal system excluding the spine in terms of x-rays.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the DeCamp amendment and I find I feel a little inadequate because I haven't gone to law school and it is obvious you have to go to law school or medical school to be able to get into the finer points of this issue, or be a car mechanic, that's true, I forgot about the car mechanic. You can do that too. And I am not sure I can be light about it partly because I have never been noted to be humorous and secondly, because I think this is kind of serious. I think it is serious in a couple of contexts. Some of the arguments against the amendment have been a little weak in my opinion and I think that is something that this Legislature ought to look at. The arguments are we have compromised enough. That is not a weak argument in and of itself, but, frankly, I think we need to go a little further than that argument. Another argument has been, look, there is only one insurance company that gets excited about this, and you know health care costs have not been increased by chiropractors. Now I would beg to differ with you. My wife goes to a chiropractor far too often for my tastes and health care costs in my family have been somewhat affected by that. And I asked my wife, I said, Arlene, is there any great need to x-ray the skull? And she said, no, but I trust my chiropractor. And I said, well, now, Arlene, why should we authorize that kind of activity? She says, I like my chiropractor. She obviously doesn't have the great expertise that I have, because I don't like her chiropractor. So it is kind of a matter of perspective, I would guess, and my perspective is simply this, that the fact of the matter is that there is no need for this kind of authorization. It will, in fact, increase health care costs and not insignificantly, and not insignificantly, just because one insurance company, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, which by the way I have my health insurance with, and so do most, at least the majority of Nebraskans that have health insurance, we find that there are some concerns about health care costs. I don't believe the argument that Senator Chronister offered that chiropractors are not the ones who have increased these costs. I am not totally convinced that that is true. I think they have had their impact as has the medical profession which from time to time I have great concern and criticism about, as I do with the hospitals and the nursing homes, etcetera, etcetera. But I think this Legislature